

Index to Historical Indiana National Guard Records Now Available Online

Researchers are now able to search historic records of thousands of Indiana National Guardsmen through the Indiana Digital Archives. The [Indiana National Guard Collection](#) indexes records of Hoosiers who served our nation from 1898 through 1940. The database includes the soldier's name, the date enlisted, and the town or county from which he or she enrolled.

Soldiers who joined around the time of the Mexican Border War in 1916 or the World War I era will have physical exams, enlistment papers, and service cards. Though the quantity of material is limited, the information can often prove useful, sometimes offering the names and addresses of next of kin, along with a general description of the guardsman. Birthdates and place of nativity are typically included. The quantity of the information in the file will vary depending upon the time frame when the individual served. Spanish American War era enrollees will typically consist of simple enlistment cards. Supplemental materials may be available in our Spanish American War collection.

"The addition of this popular collection will enable users to instantly search for records online, saving them and Archives staff hours of research," said Jim Corridan, State Archivist and Director of the Indiana Commission on Public Records. "The National Guard database coupled with existing Digital Archives resources provides a useful and comprehensive collection of Indiana soldiers' records from the Civil War up to World War II."

Then as now, National Guard regiments were ongoing contingencies that saw an upsurge in enrollments during times of international conflict. Entire regiments mobilized into federal service and saw action during the Spanish American War, the Philippine Insurrection, the Mexican Border War, and World War I. Hoosier troops also restored order during periods of internal strife, such as the coal mine strikes in Terre Haute during the 1930's and the Marion lynchings.

Most National Guard records at the Indiana State Archives continue through the 1920's and 30's, however, additional information for this time period may be available through the Indiana Adjutant General's office. All records dating after 1940 are still in the custody of the Adjutant General's Office. Researchers may request copies of the soldier's records from the State Archives.

The completion of the Indiana National Guard database is due in large to the Friends of the Indiana State Archives' volunteers who spent hours organizing the records of 66,851 soldiers. They first unfolded the enlistment papers and other records, placing them in acid free folders, then interfiled their service record cards to create actual files for each individual. Next, every individual was entered into a database, which is now available on the Indiana Digital Archives.

"Volunteers are the backbone of this initiative to digitize a complete index of the records held within the State Archives," said Corridan. "Through their hard work and dedication, the Digital Archives is providing historical resources never before available to anyone worldwide."

The National Guard database is the second major addition to the Indiana Digital Archives this summer. In June, the online portal introduced the Indiana [Civil War Soldiers Database](#), which contains over

213,000 individual records about soldiers' age, muster in and out dates and location, company, regiment, and any additional available notes. Both the National Guard and Civil War databases, like all records in the Digital Archives, have several search features designed to enhance the customer's experience. The People Search feature allows patrons to enter a surname and search through over 2 million records in 20 different collections in just seconds. More targeted research can be performed by choosing one of several variables and data limiters available through the "Detailed Search" option.

About the Indiana State Digital Archives

The Indiana State Digital Archives is an online platform that connects researchers to the millions of digital records housed within the collections of the Indiana State Archives. The [Indiana State Digital Archives](#) simplifies the process of searching the Archives' holdings by providing online listings of commonly sought-after materials such as death, prison, military, and naturalization records. In addition to common records, the Digital Archives houses several more specific record series containing many rare indices like slave and adoption records, Department of Correction prisoner records, Indiana School for the Deaf admission registers, the Social Security death index, and much more.